

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 CU-02 NEA-10 IO-10 SAM-01 /087 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3276

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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USMISSION BERLIN

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AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 11593

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, UK

SUBJECT: A TORY VIEW OF HELSINKI SUMMIT

REF: LONDON 11549

SUMMARY. CONSERVATIVE PARTY LEADER MARGARET THATCHER TOOK A CRITICAL VIEW OF UPCOMING HELSINKI SUMMIT IN HER FIRST FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH JULY 26. SPEAKING TO CHELSEA CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION, THATCHER ATTACKED SOVIET LEADERSHIP WHICH DURING PAST DECADE HAS INCREASED SIZE OF SOVIET ARMED FORCES AND STRENGTH OF ITS NAVAL FORCES. SHE EMPHASIZED THAT SAFETY FOR EUROPE LIES ONLY WITHIN WESTERN ALLIANCE OF WHICH AMERICA REMAINS THE MOST POWERFUL ELEMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. IN HER FIRST SPEECH ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES (OTHER THAN ON EEC REFERENDUM) CONSERVATIVE PARTY LEADER MARGARET THATCHER TOLD A CHELSEA CONSERVATIVE MEETING JULY 26 THAT DETENTE HAD TO BE VIEWED WITH ACCURATE ASSESSMENT OF SOVIET INTENTIONS. LISTING ATTACKS O FREEDOM OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS (PORTUGAL, CYPRUS, MIDDLE EAST), SHE CITED EXTENSION OF SOVIET POWER THROUGH ITS FORMIDABLE NAVY FROM MEDITERRANEAN TO INDIAN OCEAN AND RECENT SOVIET NAVAL MANEUVERS. SHE ATTACKED LABOR GOVERNMENT FOR ITS DECISION TO PULL ROYAL NAVY OUT OF MEDITERRANEAN AND TO "DITCH SIMONSTOWN AGREEMENT."

2. EMPHASIZING RIGHTNESS OF REFERENDUM DECISION FOR BRITAIN TO STAY IN EC, SHE NOTED HEAVY SOVIET INVESTMENTS ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, ON WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT, AND ON STRATEGIC NUCLEAR FORCES. CALLING SOVIET NAVY A NON-DEFENSIVE WEAPON, THATCHER SAID SAFETY OF EUROPE CAN ONLY BE ASSURED WITHIN WESTERN ALLIANCE OF WHICH U.S. REMAINS MOST POWERFUL ELEMENT. PRESIDENT FORD'S RECENT ASSURANCE THAT U.S. TROOPS WHICH REMAIN IN EUROPE AND BE CONFIDENTIAL

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REDUCED ONLY IN RESPONSE TO REDUCTIONS BY THE WARSAW PACT CONFIRMS FACT THAT AMERICA ALLIED WITH EUROPE. EARLIER FEARS THAT AMERICA WOULD WITHDRAW INTO ISOLATIONISM HAVE THUS BEEN DISPROVED. CONSERVATIVE PARTY REJECTS ANY TRENDS TOWARD ISOLATIONIST BRITAIN AND REAFFIRMS ALLIANCE WITH U.S.

3. REGARDING THE SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN HELSINKI, MRS.

THATCHER SAID DETENTE SOUNDS FINE BUT RINGS HOLLOW WITH
INCREASES IN SOVIET MILITARY MIGHT. BREZHNEV CONTINUES

TO INSIST THAT PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE DOES NOT MEAN
RELAXATION OF IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE. CONSERVATIVES,
THEREFORE, ARE WAITING TO SEE IF DETENTE IS A REALITY

WHICH SOVIET UNION WILL SUPPORT
IN ACTIONS AS WELL AS IN
WORDS.

4. IF DETENTE IS TO PROGRESS, SOVIET AUTHORITIES SHOULD
RELAX OPPOSITION TO ALL FORMS AND EXPRESSIONS OF DISSENT.
SOVIET UNION IS WZQAFRAID OF TRUTH AND LIBERTY" AND WILL NOT
ALLOW ITS OWN PEOPLE TO ENJOY FREEDOMS WE IN UK TAKE FOR
GRANTED. A NATION THAT DENIES FREEDOMS TO ITS OWN PEOPLE
WILL HAVE FEW SCRUPLES IN DENYING THEM TO OTHERS (E.G.
CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1968).

5. ATTEMPT IS BEING MADE IN BRITAIN, ACCORDING TO MRS.
THATCHER, TO CREATE ATMOSPHERE WHERE TRUTH AND COMMON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 11593

SENSE ARE ACTIVELY DISCOURAGED. A LOT OF "FASHIONABLE NONSENSE" IS ABOUT AS TO CONSERVATIVES SEEING COMMUNISTS UNDER EVERY BED. UK MUST WORK FOR REAL RELAXATION OF TENSION AND NOT ACCEPT WORDS OR GESTURES AS SUBSTITUTES FOR GENUINE DETENTE. UNTIL THAT IS ACHIEVED, THE WEST SHOULD NOT ACCEPT PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD TIP BALANCE OF POWER STILL FURTHER. WE (I.E. CONSERVATIVES) WANT NEITHER CONFRONTATION NOR UNILATERAL CONCESSIONS.

6. COMMENT. MRS. THATCHER'S SPEECH PRESENTS LITTLE THAT IS NEW ON THE TOPIC OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE WEST AND THE SOVIET UNION. THE TIMING OF HER SPEECH AS WELL AS THE LOCATION IN WHICH SHE GAVE IT ARE OF SOME INTEREST.

7. IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTURE WITH HIS ENTOURAGE FOR HELSINKI, THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION APPEARS TO BE VOICING A SENTIMENT OF CAUTION AND RESERVE IN ADVANCE OF THE WORDY COMMUNIQUE AND PRESS COVERAGE TO BE EXPECTED FROM A SUMMIT MEETING.

SHE HAS, THEREFORE, CHOSEN THE TIME FOR HER SPEECH TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM DRAMA, IN EFFECT UNDER-CUTTING SOME OF THE PUBLIC ACCLAIM WILSON MAY HAVE HOPED TO DERIVE FROM HELSINKI.

8. WHILE THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT WILSON AND THE LABOR GOVERNMENT ARE THE PRIMARY TARGETS OF HER SPEECH, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT SHE MADE HER POINTS IN CHELSEA, THE CONSTITUENCY OF NICOLAS SCOTT, ERSTWHILE HEATH SUPPORTER. BY INFERENCE HER SPEECH IS AIMED AT RE-ESTABLISHING HER PRIMACY AS CONSERVATIVE LEADER FOLLOWING LAST WEEK'S ORGY OF PRAISE FOR THE STATESMANSHIP OF HEATH'S SPEECH IN COMMONS ON THE ECONOMIC CRISIS.

9. CARLTON CLUB GOSSIP JULY 28 WAS TO THE EFFECT THAT THATCHER'S SPEECH WAS VERY CLEVER BOTH IN CONTENT AS WELL CONFIDENTIAL

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AS TIMING AND LOCATION. TWO FORMER CONSERVATIVE MP'S AGREEO HER SPEECH WAS DESIGNED TO REMIND WILSON THAT CONSERVATIVES REMAIN A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH ON FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS, EVEN THOUGH CONSERVATIVES HAD GENERALLY SUPPORTED HIM ON HIS ECONOMIC PACKAGE. TWO EX-MP'S ALSO AGREED HER SPEECH HAD CAREFULLY THREADED THE LINE BETWEEN OPPOSITION FOR ITSELF ALONE AND FLAGRANT OPPOSITION AT A TIME THE PRIME MINISTER IS TRAVELING ABROAD ON NATIONAL CONCERNS.

L0. ANOTHER MP TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT MRS. THATCHER'S SPEECH WAS DRAFTED BY AMERICAN JOURNALIST ROBERT CONQUEST AND EDITED BY FRONT BENCH SPOKESMAN ON FCO AFFAIRS ELDON GRIFFITHS. WITHOUT CITING THESE SPECIFIC DETAILS, THE CONSERVATIVES AT THE CARLTON CLUB SAID HER SPEECH EMANATED FROM A SMALL GROUP OF ADVISORS (NOT INCLUDING SHADOW FOREIGN SECRETARY REGINALD MAUDLING) WHO WERE ACTIVE SUPPORTERS IN HER SUCCESSFUL LEADERSHIP CAMPAIGN 6 MONTHS AGO. THE ONLY NAME THEY WERE ABLE TO AGREE UPON WAS THAT OF AIREY NEAVE WHO WAS OFFICIALLY HER CAMPAIGN MANAGER AND IS REPUTED TO BE A HARD-LINER ON FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS.

RICHARDSON

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